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Synopsis of **HIS BUDDY'S WIFE**

Directed by Tom Terriss-

Adapted By ~~Tom Terriss~~

Bill Mullaney leaves his aged mother and sweetheart wife on his farm in the middle west to enlist for the World War.

Jim McGee, a New York newspaper reporter, unattached and heart whole and fancy free, also enlists and goes overseas.

These two, from entirely different walks of life, become buddies, inseparable except in line of duty at the front.

Jim, having no one to write to him and not quite understanding the encouragement received by the others in their letters from home begins to share Bill's letters from his wife, Mary. Bill shows him her photograph and certain loving passages from her letters and Jim gradually falls in love with this girl whom he has never seen. Unknown to Bill he often gazes at the photograph with a deep longing. And when Bill is sent into No Man's Land on a desperate mission, Bill asks Jim to promise that, in case anything should happen to him, he will return to the farm and look after Bill's wife and mother. Then Bill goes forth...and does not return. His gasmask is found after the Armistice and he is reported dead.

The news of Bill's death when received at the farm unbalances his aged mother's mind and she fails rapidly in health.

True to his promise Jim returns and goes to the farm and upon seeing Mary immediately falls in love with her, a feeling which however he keeps firmly locked within himself knowing that her heart is in France with Bill.

The mother, in her unbalanced mental state, mistakes Jim in his uniform for her own son and welcomes him home saying that she has prayed that she might once again see her boy in his wife's arms and gently urges Jim and Mary together. To please the ailing mother

Mary signals Jim to act the part which they do but as his arms enfold Mary the mother's remaining strength ebbs away and she falls to the floor dead.

When the mother has been laid at rest the question arises about the advisability of Jim remaining at the farm with Mary but the kindly village doctor suggests that Jim sleep in a room over the barn as Mary really needs his help on the farm and this plan is followed.

But the village gossips begin to talk and the two leading scandal mongers make a trip to the farm to see for themselves if possible just what is going on.

Mary, on the verge of a nervous collapse brought on by all her grief faints just before the gossips arrive at the farm and Jim has lifted her gently and placed her on the couch. He is bending over her as the gossips arrive and look through the window. Jim gazing at the unconscious form of Mary cannot control himself and leans over and gently kisses Mary full on the mouth. The sight of that is all the gossips need and they rush back to the village to spread the news of the illicit love affair taking place between Mary and Jim. And when Jim comes to the grocery store later, the wife of the shopkeeper refuses to wait on him at the same time making insulting remarks about him and Mary. Unable to cope with a woman, Jim thrashes her husband into an apology and then stalks out leaving the store a wreck. The wife compels her husband to have Jim arrested for assault and battery, and Jim is put into the country jail.

The trial comes up and the entire village wrought up by the evil tongues of gossip is against Jim. Just before the conclusion of the trial when things look very black for Jim, Mary, cognizant of Jim's plight through the kindly doctor, bursts into the room



and announces that Jim had a perfect right to defend her name from insult because they are betrothed and are going to be married. This news which is a surprise to Jim as well as the village turns the tide in Jim's favor and the trial ends in congratulations for the prospective bride and groom.

On their wedding night Jim and Mary sit before the fire engrossed in their separate thoughts. Finally Jim rises to go to the room over the barn but Mary tells him he has a right to stay in the house. But Jim tells her that he is her husband in name and understands why she married him. It is finally agreed that Jim will occupy the mother's room and so their married life begins.

A few weeks later a strange figure arrives in the village and makes its way to the farm and peers in the window in time to see what appears from the outside to be a love scene between Jim and Mary but which in reality is nothing more than a consultation over the buying of a piece of farm machinery.

That night, as Jim stands in his room looking out he sees a figure slip into the barn and taking his revolver he goes out to investigate. In the dim rays of an electric flashlight Jim comes face to face with Bill. He has not been killed but badly gassed and made prisoner and only recently released. He has heard in the village that Jim and Mary were married but could not resist coming out to have one last look at his wife and his old horse - then he was going to return to the dead. But Jim tells him that he is not Mary's husband and that her love has always been Bill's and prevails finally upon Bill to come to the house and stay for the night.

In the morning Jim brings the two together much to the surprise and joy of Mary and while they are wrapped in each other's arms, oblivious to everything except that once again they have one another, Jim makes his exit and slowly disappears up the road in the light of the rising sun.

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